

PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT



**VITAL RECORDS COPY
NORTH VIETNAM
TENTH MONTH RICE CROP**

NPIC R-408/66
DECEMBER 1966

GROUP 1 EXCLUDED FROM
AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING
AND DECLASSIFICATION

WARNING

This document contains information affecting the national defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

Approved For Release 2000/04/17 : CIA-RDP78B04560A005700010009-7

[illegible]

Approved For Release 2000/04/17 : CIA-RDP78B04560A005700010009-7

[illegible]

TITLE NPIC

R-408/66

Dec. 1966

SEC. CLASS. LOCATION

C

Approved For Release 2000/04/17 : CIA-RDP78B04560A005700010009-7

NORTH VIETNAM TENTH MONTH RICE CROP*

INTRODUCTION

The determination of the rice crop status in North Vietnam, especially planting dates, will provide information that could possibly be correlated with additional information, i.e., meteorological data, to estimate crop success. Reconnaissance photography obtained from numerous missions was reviewed. Excellent-quality, low-level photography of [REDACTED] covered a narrow strip extending from the mouth of the Song Len at 19-58N 105-59E, over Ninh Binh at 20-15N 105-58E, and ending near the mouth of the Song Ngo Dong at 20-11N 106-21E (Figure 1).

25X1D

DESCRIPTION 25X1D

The photography of [REDACTED] was studied to determine if rice planting, young rice fields, and recently planted rice fields could be differentiated. The scale of the photography ranged from approximately [REDACTED]. It was found that if the larger scale was used, individual clumps or rows of plants could be seen, thus making the differences easily detectable (Figure 2). If a smaller scale is used and the individual plants or crop texture are no longer visible, the tone differences aid in identifying crop status (Figure 3). The latter method of determining crop status probably produces less reliable results.

25X1D

25X1D

On [REDACTED] 34 percent of the fields in the sample areas were either ready for planting or recently planted, and 22 percent of the fields were not prepared for planting (Table 1). Some of these fields may be intended for other

*The tenth month rice crop is the crop harvested around November, approximately the tenth month of the lunar year.

crops or may lie fallow this planting season. It would appear that the planting for the tenth month crop would be more than half finished. It is doubtful that a higher percentage of fields would be at the planting stage at any other time because of lack of mechanization.

OTHER ITEMS OBSERVED

Probable seedbeds were observed throughout the area. These seedbeds resemble the smooth texture of mature rice fields; however, they have not turned the lighter tone of mature rice. Removal of the seedlings from the seedbeds leaves a field free of stubble.

Rice planting technique was visible at 20-11N 106-21E (Figure 3). After the field is prepared for planting--generally by flooding and plowing one or more times by buffalo-drawn plow--the seedlings are apparently laid out in baskets (in which the seedlings are carried to the field), guide rows are laid out, and then the areas between the rows are planted. Shortly after planting, the baskets may be seen scattered around the field. (Figure 2).

Table 1. Status of Rice Fields in Sample Areas, [REDACTED] 25X1D

Status	Percent*
Fields unprepared for planting	22
Fields prepared for planting	10
Fields being planted	5
Fields of young rice	19
Fields of middle growth stage rice	34
Fields of mature rice	10

*The percentages indicate amount of identifiable rice fields in the designated category, not the percentages of total cultivated area.

CONFIDENTIAL

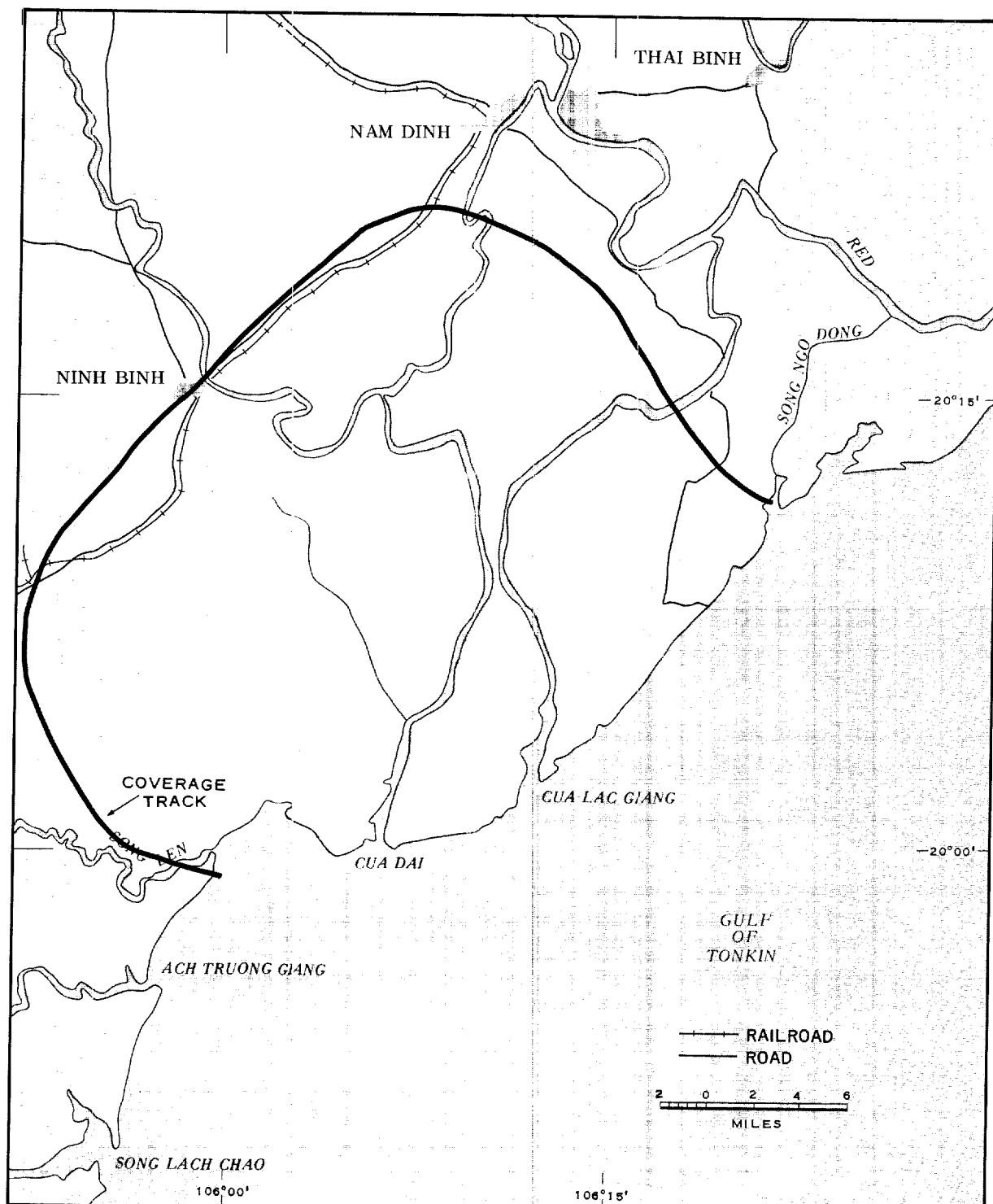


FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE, [REDACTED]

NPIC L-6411 (12/66)

25X1D

CONFIDENTIAL

BEST COPY

Available

CONFIDENTIAL

NPIC R-408/66

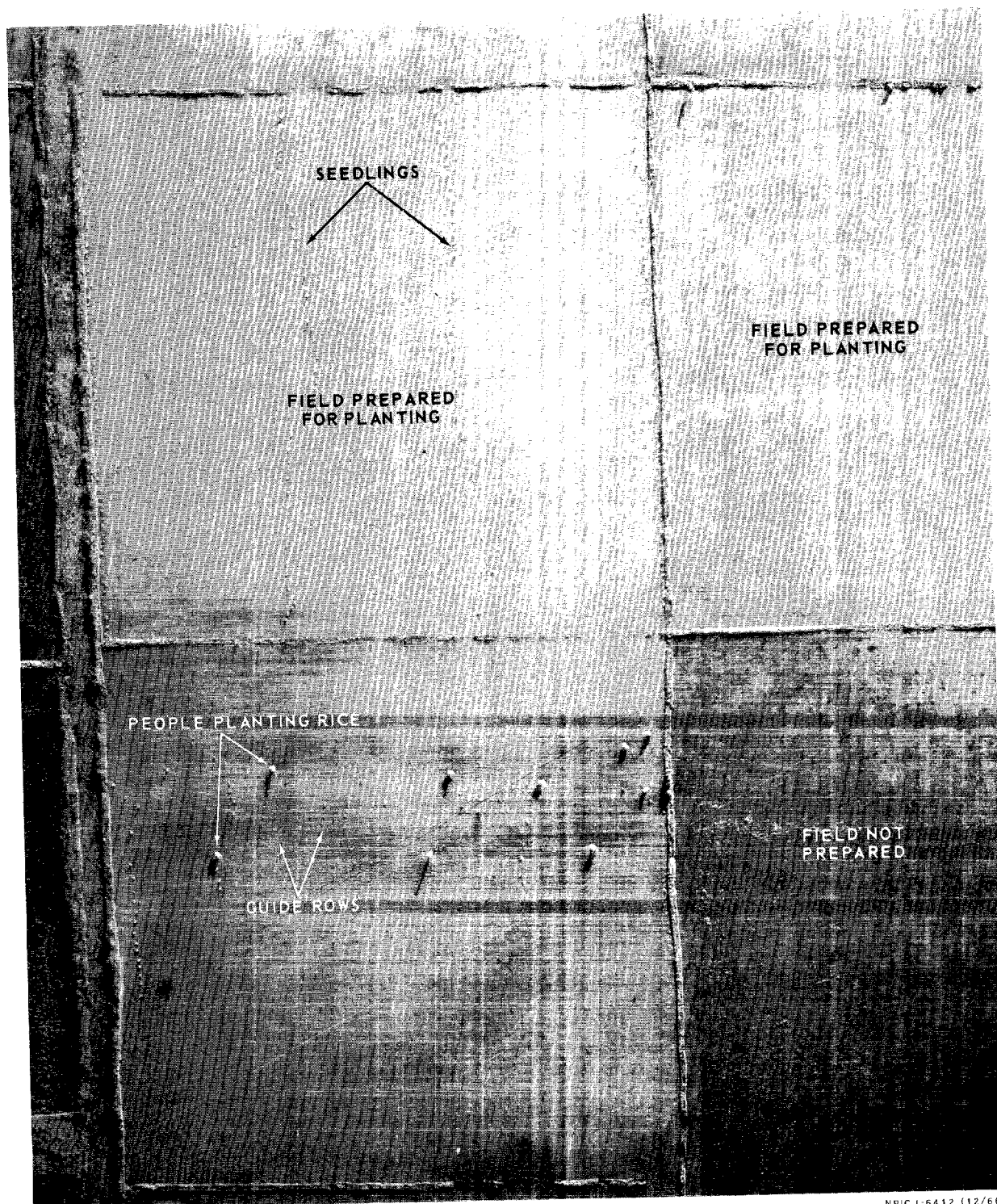


FIGURE 2. LARGE-SCALE PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE OF PLANTING OPERATIONS.

NPIC L-6412 (12/66)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

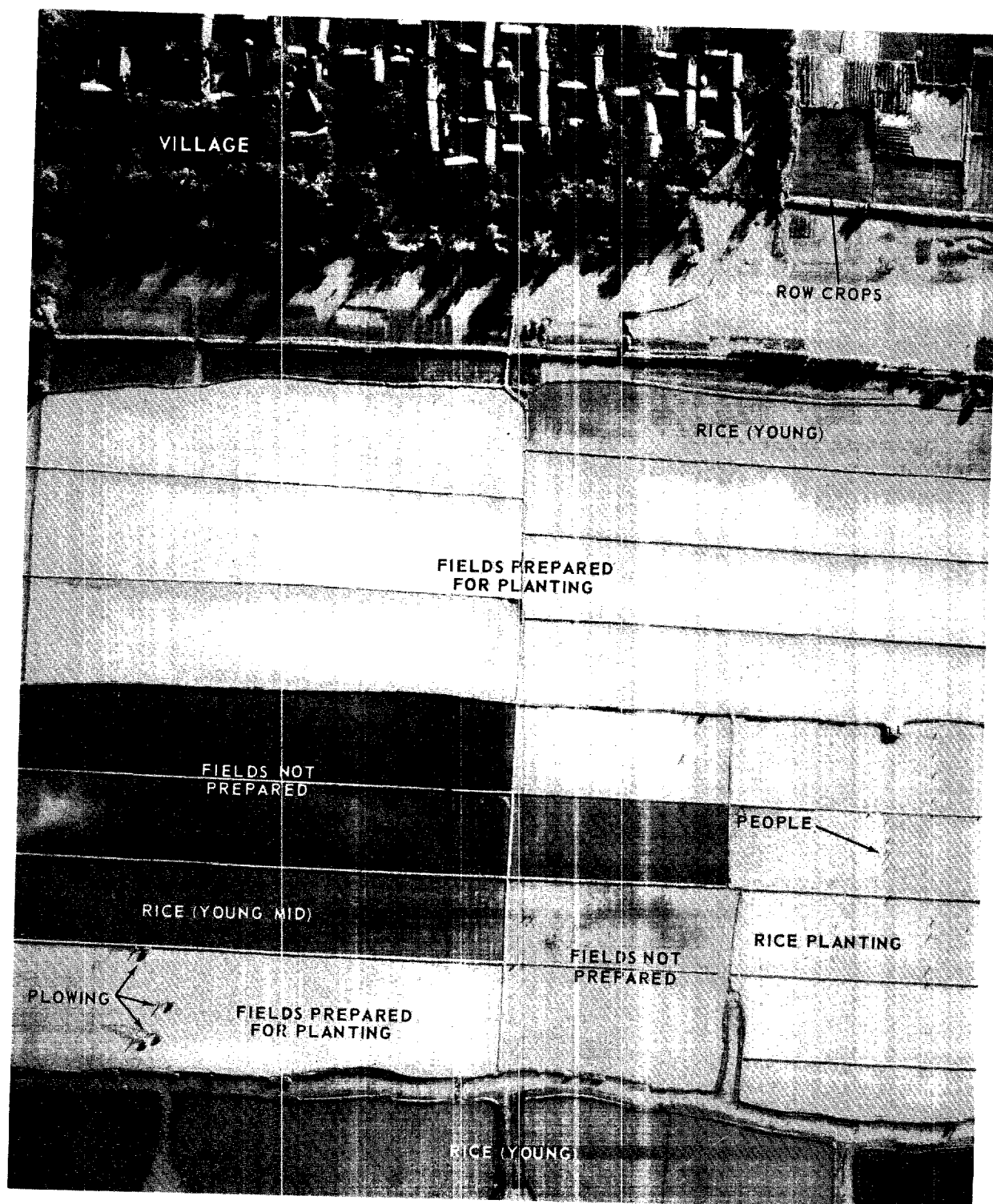


FIGURE 3. SMALL-SCALE PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE OF PLANTING OPERATIONS.

NPIC L-6413 (12/66)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

NPIC R-408/66

REFERENCES

PHOTOGRAPHY

Mission

Date

Camera

Frames

Classification

CONFIDENTIAL

MAPS OR CHARTS

25X1D

ACIC series, scale 1:250,000

AMS series, scale 1:250,000

NPIC PROJECT

11221/66

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL